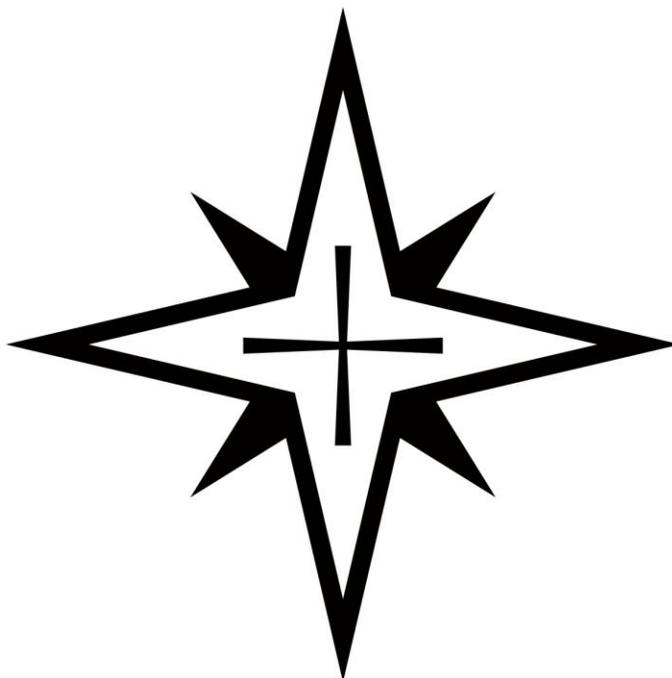


ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY

January 4, 2026 at 8:00 and 10:30 AM

Kids in Charge at 10:30



Kids in Charge services give young people at St. Thomas a voice in worship! Today you will see them serving as ushers, acolytes, readers, musicians, and oblation bearers. All children and youth will be invited to come forward and stand around the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. The translations of today's lectionary readings are from "God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children" and "The Message" and are approved by the Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Welcome to St. Thomas Episcopal Church!

We warmly welcome you to our parish and are glad you are worshipping with us today. Our ushers and welcome team are ready to assist you and answer your questions.

Guests

If you are new, visiting, or a guest today, please scan this QR code to connect with us! We would like to greet you by name. Please see our welcome team for a nametag.



Children

Children are welcome in all our services! Activities for them are available in the narthex (lobby). Childcare is also available in our nursery for children up to age five. Just ask an usher.

Restrooms

Gendered restrooms are located in the hallway off of the parish hall. A non-gendered and accessible restroom is available in the same hallway. An usher can guide you.

Hearing Assist Devices

Hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex (lobby).

Service Notes

Today you will see and hear cues to stand, kneel, and be seated. Instructions are printed in *italics* and spoken congregational responses in **bold**. Feel free to observe these traditions as you are able, but please, do what works best for you. Be comfortable here in God's house. Our services are streamed live on YouTube. Any hymns not included in this bulletin can be found in your pew hymnals, most often The Hymnal 1982 (blue). All music is used by permission under One License #A-717375 and CCLI #21653437.

Today's Offering

Our work as a church continues by your generosity in all ways. Thank you for your support. For online giving, visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving or scan here:



Our Mission and Core Values

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a diverse community that seeks unity with God and each other in Christ.



Muffins With Mark+

If you feel new to St. Thomas, come enjoy some baked goods and an informal chat with Rev. Mark and other newcomers.

The next date is January 18. Email Donna at membership@stthomaschesapeake.org or visit the welcome table to RSVP. Muffins With Mark+ is held every few weeks, after the 10:30 service. You can reach Mark anytime by calling the church office at 757-547-4662, ext. 6.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: We Three Kings of Orient Are

1982 Hymnal 128

At 10:30, verses 2, 3, and 4 will be sung by soloists. Refrain sung by all.

1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: Gloria

LEVAS 241, 10:30 *only*

Music by David Hurd (b. 1950), *Intercession Mass*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

You are sea-ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

for you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all of our lives (what I have been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, the same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: God Has Spoken to His People, verse 1 1982 Hymnal 115, 10:30 *only*

Open your ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.
God has spoken to his people, Hallelujah!
And his words are words of wisdom, Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem to ask, "What's this about a child born king of the Jews? We saw a star in the sky that led us here, and we've come to honor him."

King Herod, who was very insecure and a little crazy, said, "King? What king?" Herod was scared that another king was out there. So he called all the priests and smart people together and asked them where this king of the Jews was supposed to be born according to the books.

They looked and found out that he was supposed to be born in Bethlehem. So he told the wise men to go to Bethlehem and made up a story about how he wanted to go and honor this newborn king as well. He actually wanted to destroy him.

The wise men set out for Bethlehem. The star in the sky stopped over the spot where Jesus lived. The wise men were thrilled! When they went inside, they found Jesus and Mary and they

got down on their knees to worship him. They opened their packages full of treasures and gave him gifts of incense and gold. They had a dream that told them not to go back to Herod, so instead of going back through Jerusalem, they found another road and went home.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

At 10:30, sing verse 2 of God Has Spoken to His People.

They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, then let them hear.

They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word.

God has spoken to his people, Hallelujah!

And his words are words of wisdom, Hallelujah!

SERMON

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand as able*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR EPIPHANY *Liturgy for The Whole Church, Susan K. Bock*

Shine in your church, O God; embolden us, in a dark world, to speak truthfully and to act with the courage of love. This day and always, **Christ, be our Light.**

Shine on your world, O God; heal the warring of nations and the wounding of the earth to give us peace at last. This day and always, **Christ, be Our Light.**

Shine for your people, O God; make us one human family who clothe each other with mercy and feed each other with justice. This day and always, **Christ, be our Light.**

Shine in our hearts, O God; help us to reach to the heavens and deep in our souls to seek you, to find you, and to know you. This day and always, **Christ, be our Light.**

Shine in the saints and departed, O God, especially Jackie Miller, Sharon Van Langeveld and Brian Mathieson; teach us to follow their lead to outrageous faith and eternal love. This day and always, **Christ, be our Light.**

Shine for the afflicted, O God; remind them of your deep compassion and how you tenderly bear all our sorrows, especially Shirley Nagrocki, Kay Yopp, Dianne Mugerditchian, the Hudgins family, Melissa Trott, Mackenzie Kimball, the Miller family, Steve Seymour, Susan Chyczewski and family, Jack Dunleavy, Santi, Winnie Washington, Paula DeLullo, Debbie Brooks, Len and Nancy Brownlee, Robert Eklund, John Burton, Charlie Krotz, John Wright, Cheryl Guess, Jo Ann, Catharine Rowe, Charles Cress, Rachel Wootten, Vernon Brinkley, Linda Hammond, Eric Brummitt, Angela Mott, Debbie Oliveti, Robert Butler, and Johnny Guess.

Particular intercessions and petitions may be offered either silently or aloud.

This day and always, **Christ, be our Light.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Shine, O God, as the Light that creates, the Light that calls, the Light that comes again with every dawn. Shine as the Light that scatters every shadow, and the Light in which we promise to walk, with your help. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with others.

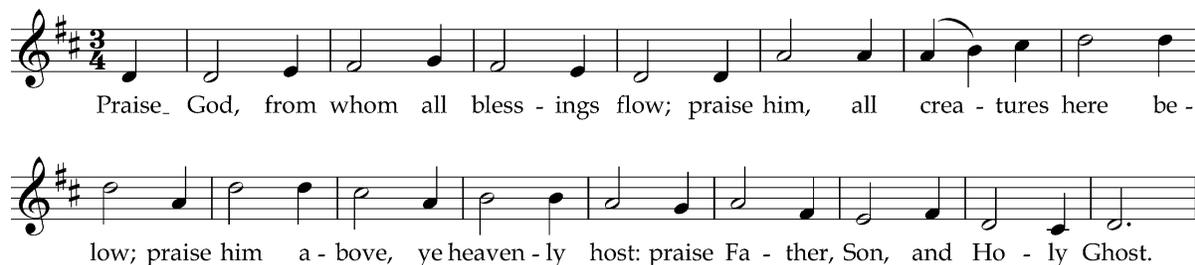
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: What Star is This arr. Thomas Keesecker (8:00)
Bethlehem Procession by Pepper Choplin (10:30)



Our work as a church continues by your generosity in all ways. Thank you for your support. For online giving, visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving or scan here:

DOXOLOGY

Tune: Puer nobis



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be -
low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B *Please stand as able*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

spoken at 8:00

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

sung at 10:30

WLP 785

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, Lord.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say/sing,

spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30, setting by Eric Wyse

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is the table, not of the Church, but of God. It is made ready for those of us who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, those of us who have much faith, and those who have little; those of us who have been here often, and those who have not been here long; those of us who have tried to follow, and those who have failed. Come, because it is God who invites us. It is God's will that we should meet here.

COMMUNION MUSIC: In the Bleak Midwinter

J.B. Taylor

COMMUNION HYMN: In the Bleak Midwinter

1982 Hymnal 112 (blue)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand as able*

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was born to be the Savior of the world: mercifully grant that as he has bestowed upon us the gift of new birth, and fed us with his body and blood, we may be strengthened and inspired to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

VESTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: As With Gladness Men of Old

1982 Hymnal 119 (blue)

DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: A Child is Born

Robert J. Powell

All are invited to an Epiphany Dessert Party today!

Sunday, January 4, 2:00-4:00 PM, hymn sing at 3 PM

Open house: see welcome table for location details